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## **Sen. Brown convening Manufacturer's Roundtable**

**FRIDAY, December 5, 2003** — State Sen. Cameron S. Brown today announced he will convene a Manufacturer's Roundtable: A Call to Action for the 16<sup>th</sup> Senate District on Monday, Dec. 15, at Hillsdale College.

The forum, scheduled from 10 a.m. until noon at Phillips Auditorium, will bring together local manufacturers and key decision makers to address the need to stem the loss of manufacturing jobs in southern Michigan.

"It's time that we get down to brass tacks and present concrete solutions for supporting and retaining Michigan's manufacturing base," said Brown (R-Fawn River Twp.). "Southern Michigan has been especially hard hit by the loss of manufacturing jobs and the purpose of this roundtable is to put into motion steps we can take to protect current industry and attract new businesses."

As part of the forum, Brown will present a legislative perspective on what is being done at the state level to protect manufacturing jobs in Michigan. The Michigan Legislature recently introduced the JOBS plan – "Job Opportunities for Business Success" – to help create manufacturing jobs, spur new small businesses and provide incentives to help jumpstart the state's slow-moving economy. This nine-point bill package is currently moving through the legislative process, and Brown will provide more details about this JOBS initiative.

On Sept. 5, Brown convened an Economic Summit for the 16<sup>th</sup> District. The forum was a first-step in trying to address the economic needs of communities and businesses throughout the district. One of the most pressing problems vocalized at the summit was the need to stem the loss of manufacturing jobs. Participants also stressed their desire to have a follow-up summit with key decision makers at the table, most notably U.S. Congressmen Fred Upton and Nick Smith.

Upton and Smith, of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional Districts, have agreed to be keynote speakers.

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Following the keynote speakers, selected manufacturers from each county in the 16<sup>th</sup> District will participate in a roundtable discussion. The event will then be open to questions and suggestions from the audience.

The event is free and open to the public. Those who would like to register for the Roundtable should contact Sen. Brown's office toll-free at 1-866-305-0316, or via e-mail at [sencbrown@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sencbrown@senate.michigan.gov).

"I look forward to the participation of those who support and sustain manufacturing in Michigan," Brown said. "Working together we can begin to revitalize our manufacturing industry and continue to grow the local economy."

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